

REMARKS

Claims 2, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 and 19-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16 are amended, claims 19-26 are added and claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13, 14 and 18 are canceled. New independent claim 19 corresponds to previous claims 1 and 7 combined. New independent claim 20 corresponds to previous claims 1 and 8 combined. New dependent claims 21 and 22 are similar to dependent claims 2 and 10, respectively. New independent claim 23 corresponds to previous claims 18 and 13 combined. New independent claim 24 corresponds to previous claims 18 and 14 combined. New dependent claims 25 and 26 are similar to dependent claims 12 and 16, respectively. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 3-10 and 13-16. As noted above, independent claims 19, 20, 23 and 24 respectively include the allowable subject matter of claims 7, 8, 13 and 14. Accordingly, all independent claims and their dependent claims are patentable.

Claims 1, 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) [sic, 35 U.S.C. §103(a)] over U.S. Patent No. 4,516,066 to Nowakowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,664,767 to Takahashi et al. In addition, claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the references applied against claims 1 and 18, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,780,996 to Kusase et al. These rejections are moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

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